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STATEMENT OF MAPA PRESIDENT KEVIN HILLMAN REGARDING NEW SUPREME COURT EYEWITNESS IDENTIFICATION JURY INSTRUCTION

“The Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorney (MAPA) is pleased the Missouri Supreme Court listened to the concerns of its stakeholders when it issued a revised instruction on eyewitness identifications,” said **Kevin Hillman, MAPA President and Pulaski County Prosecuting Attorney**.

“In addition to MAPA, the Missouri Sheriff’s Association, Missouri Police Chiefs Association, and the Missouri Victims’ Assistance Network asked the Court to consider how to ensure jurors were properly informed about the law regarding eyewitness identifications. Missouri’s Prosecutors believe that the revised instruction, while not perfect, will go much further to assist jurors in understanding and applying the law and making informed decisions.”

“We applaud the Court for an open and inclusive process, and allowing all stakeholders the ability comment and weigh in on such an important issue. This is the hallmark of a well-functioning criminal justice system.”

MAI 310.02 was recently issued by the Missouri Supreme Court, effective January 1, 2016, after taking comment from stakeholders on a proposed draft from Supreme Court’s Committee on Procedure in Criminal Cases.

An earlier draft of the jury instruction was controversial. It drew comment from prosecutors, law enforcement officials, and victim services providers, as well as judges from St. Louis City and other parts of the state.

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